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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: R. Buckley
For: SLIP-RESISTANT HORIZONTAL SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER BOAT
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Serial No.: 09/588,396
Examiner: K. Tran
Group Art Unit: 3634

Boston, MA
January 16, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

This reply is made in response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2002. This Response is due on or before January 22, 2003. Kindly enter the following amendments and remarks in response to the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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1. (Four Times Amended) A semiconductor wafer boat comprising:
 - a) a first end and a second end;
 - b) a plurality of slots positioned between the first and second ends for receiving semiconductor wafers therein, the semiconductor wafers being substantially circular and having an upper area and a lower area, each of the slots comprises first and second upper support guides to maintain the semiconductor wafers in a vertical orientation during wafer processing at elevated temperatures between approximately 1000 °C to 1400 °C; and
 - c) an arcuate lower grooved portion for receiving and supporting the lower area of the semiconductor wafers, wherein at least a part of the lower area of the semiconductor wafers contacts the lower arcuate grooved portion such that the lower arcuate